

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 147849
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:EHURWITZ:RLW
APPROVED BY EA:RHOLBROOKE
S/S:LFLEISCHER
EA:ECOLBERT

-----019088 102350Z /61

R 100205Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 147849

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, EINV, AS

SUBJECT: DILLINGHAM CASE

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MEMCON BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY HEGINBOTHAM ON DISCUSSION HE
HAS WITH FONMIN PEACOCK JUNE 8 ON
DILLINGHAM CASE.

2. QUOTE: I EXPRESSED THAT THERE IS SERIOUS CONCERN BOTH
IN CONGRESS AND THE US GOVERNMENT OVER THE LACK OF PROGRESS
IN RESOLVING THE DILLINGHAM CASE. I NOTED SENATOR INOUE'S
RECENT INQUIRY TO THE DEPARTMENT ABOUT PROGRESS IN THE
CASE, AND THAT DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER HAD ASKED ME
TO RAISE THIS ISSUE WITH HIM. MINISTER PEACOCK TOOK NOTE
OF THIS EXPRESSION OF CONCERN. HE SAID THAT THE
AUSTRALIAN ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS THE CASE UNDER REVIEW AND
WILL BE MAKING HIS REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE
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GOVERNMENT IN DUE COURSE. MR. HOLBROOKE EMPHASIZED THAT
THIS IS A SERIOUS MATTER. IN AN ASIDE, THE FOREIGN
MINISTER ASKED JUST WHAT THE US REALLY WANTS AS A SETTLE-
MENT. I SAID THAT WE TAKE NO POSITION ON THE MERITS OF THE
DILLINGHAM CLAIM, BUT HAVE EXPRESSED OURSELVES ON THE
PROCESS. IN OUR AIDE MEMOIRE WE SUGGESTED EITHER THAT A
MUTUALLY AGREEABLE ARBITRATOR BE PROPOSED BY THE PRIME

MINISTER OR THAT INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION BE USED. THE FOREIGN MINISTER INDICATED AN INTENTION TO TAKE A MORE PERSONAL AND ACTIVE LOOK AT THE PROBLEM THEN HE HAD IN THE PAST. END QUOTE.

3. AMBASSADOR ALSTON BRIEFED BRADFIELD JUNE 9 ON ABOVE DISCUSSION. THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE WOULD FOLLOW UP WITH FONMIN AFTER AMBASSADOR'S RETURN TO CANBERRA. BRADFIELD EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS.

4. AMBASSADOR ALSTON REQUESTS THAT THIS CABLE BE SET ASIDE IN HIS READING FILE FOR HIS RETURN. VANCE

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